

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

IN RE:	)	Case No. 05-55711
	)	
James and Wendy Zouras	)	Chapter 7
	)	
Debtors	)	Hon. A. Benjamin Goldgar

**APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE OF FINAL COMPENSATION AND  
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES OF THE LAW OFFICES OF ILENE F.  
GOLDSTEIN, CHARTERED ATTORNEYS FOR THE TRUSTEE**

Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered, Attorneys for Ilene F. Goldstein, Trustee, pursuant to §330 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, requests the entry of an order authorizing and allowing an award of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. In its application, IFG Chtd. requests compensation for services rendered during the period January 30, 2009 to May 1, 2012. For this period, IFG Chtd. seeks attorneys' fees for services rendered in the amount of \$12,717.50 for 44.70 hours. IFG Chtd. also requests that the Court order, allow and direct payment to it of \$218.13 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with its legal services. IFG Chtd. previously requested a first interim compensation for services rendered during the period of January 12, 2006 to July 31, 2007. For this period, IFG Chtd. sought attorneys' fees for services rendered in the amount of \$6,127.50 and requested payment of \$109.40 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with its legal services. IFG Chtd. previously requested a second interim compensation for services rendered during the period of August 1, 2007 to January 29, 2009. For this period, IFG Chtd. sought attorneys' fees for services rendered in the amount of \$9,980.00 and requested payment of \$345.58 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with its legal services. Both interim compensation

In support of its application, IFG Chtd. respectfully states as follows:

**BACKGROUND**

1. On October 14, 2005, a voluntary petition under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code was filed by the Debtors.

2. Ilene F. Goldstein is the duly appointed, qualified and acting bankruptcy Trustee for the Bankruptcy Estate of James and Wendy Zouras.

3. Through her administration and liquidation of the Estate, Trustee has amassed over \$129,000.00 and all of those funds are available to the Estate. Counsel for the Trustee reviewed documents relating to all of those assets to determine if anything was available for liquidation. Subject to the above other than attorney and potential accountant fees which are ongoing, there are no accrued unpaid administrative expenses.

**RETENTION AND QUALIFICATION OF IFG CHTD.**

4. On March 31, 2006 this Court entered an order authorizing the retention of Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered as attorneys for the Trustee.

5. IFG Chtd. has extensive experience in bankruptcy matters and in the representation of bankruptcy trustees.

**ALL SERVICES PERFORMED BY IFG CHTD. WERE REASONABLE AND NECESSARY**

6. Pursuant to §330 of the Code and the generally applicable criteria with respect to time, nature, extent and value of services performed, all of IFG Chtd.'s services are compensable and the compensation requested is fair and reasonable. All the legal services performed by IFG Chtd. to date were required for the proper representation of the Trustee in this Chapter 7 case.

There has been no duplication of services by members or associates of IFG

attorneys participated in any matter, joint participation was deemed necessary due to the complexity of the problems involved. IFG Chtd. has thoroughly reviewed its billing statements to eliminate any non-compensable interoffice conferences of its professionals. IFG Chtd. has also voluntarily chosen to not bill certain time and expenses and cut time already billed. However, IFG Chtd. professionals have been required to conduct a limited number of strategy conferences as defined by In re Adventist Living Centers, Inc., 137 B.R. 701 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1991).

From the outset of this case, members of IFG Chtd. were instructed to avoid recording time entries which contained "lumping" as discussed in In re Pettibone Corp., 74 B.R. 293 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1987). In those instances in which more than one task is contained within a time entry description, IFG Chtd. has specified within the time entry description the amount of time attributable to each individual task.

7. Itemized and detailed descriptions of the specific legal services rendered to Trustee by IFG Chtd., after revision by the Trustee, are reflected on the billing statements attached hereto as Exhibit A. The billing statements set forth the initials of each attorney and the amount of time spent rendering each service, the day on which such service was rendered and a description of the nature of the services rendered. Also attached as part of Exhibit B is a summary of the fees and costs expended in each category of activity.

**ALL OF THE EXPENSES FOR WHICH IFG CHTD. SEEKS REIMBURSEMENT WERE NECESSARY**

8. IFG Chtd. incurred expenses in the amount of \$218.13 in connection with its representation of the Trustee during the period January 30, 2009 to May 1, 2012 for which it now requests reimbursement. IFG Chtd. maintained a system for recording expenses in a manner which complies with the requirements of In re

undertake extraordinary efforts to attempt to manually input descriptions for document reproduction projects, messenger deliveries, overnight delivery services and facsimile transmittals in order to provide the greatest amount of detail for individual expense entries. An itemized breakdown of each of these expenses is included in the billing statements attached as Exhibit A. IFG Chtd. does not seek reimbursement for expenditures it has incurred in this case which constitute overhead, such as ordinary postage charges and secretarial charges. In re Adventist Living Centers, Inc., 137 BR 701. IFG Chtd. is seeking reimbursement primarily for expenses incurred for, among other things, document binding and reproduction charges, messenger charges and delivery charges that were incurred in the service of pleadings and mailing of notices to creditors and parties in interest. For documents, pleadings or correspondence which were delivered by messenger, telecopier or Federal Express as opposed to delivery by first class mail, such expedited delivery was deemed absolutely necessary in the exercise of discretion by the responsible attorney in order to meet court deadlines or otherwise insure the efficient and orderly administration of services to the Trustee.

Notwithstanding the fact that a limited number of the expenses included in IFG Chtd.'s billing statements do not contain detailed descriptions, all of the aforesaid expenses were actually incurred by IFG Chtd. and were necessary for the proper representation of the Trustee in this case. All the expenses incurred are specifically allocated to this case and do not represent general overhead or other expenses unrelated to this case.

**NATURE OF SERVICES PERFORMED BY IFG CHTD.**

9. Counsel for the Trustee analyzed, reconciled and reviewed the Claims Bar Date Notice and the Schedules to make sure all creditors received notice of the Bar Date. Counsel for the Trustee also analyzed the documents attached to the claims to determine legal entitlement. Counsel for the Trustee also prepared all of the closing documents to close this Estate. In addition one of the larger creditor of the Estate filed a claim totaling \$77,000.00 and Counsel for the Trustee examined legal entitlement under that claim.

In connection with the services, IFG Chtd. expended 14.30 hours, for which it seeks compensation in the amount of \$4,522.50 for fees and reimbursable expenses of \$70.00. Set forth below is a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category:

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	5.00	\$300.00	\$1,500.00
IFG	9.30	\$325.00	\$3,022.50
TOTAL	14.30 hours		<u>\$4,522.50</u>
		Expenses	<u>\$70.00</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,592.50</b>

**Miscellaneous**

10. Counsel for the Trustee corresponded with Debtor in an effort to obtain tax information (at the request of Debtor's counsel) regarding all tax documentation, reviewed and updated the Docket to show all legal matter and prepared the 505 tax letters.

In connection with these services, IFG Chtd. expended 8.10 hours, for which it seeks \$2,357.50 in fees and reimbursable expenses of \$33.43. Set forth below in a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category.

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	2.90	\$275.00	\$ 797.50
IFG	5.20	\$300.00	\$1,560.00
TOTAL	8.10		<u>\$2,357.50</u>
		Expenses	<u>\$33.43</u>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,390.93</b>

#### **Retention/Compensation of Professionals**

11. Counsel for the Trustee attended the hearings on interim compensation for Counsel to the Trustee; prepared and finalized counsel to the Trustee's Final Fee Petition; attended hearing on application to retain accountants, the Accountant's Final Fee Petition and the Trustee's Final Fee Petition.

In connection with the above services, IFG Chtd. expended 6.90 hours, for which it seeks compensation in the amount of \$2,205.00 for fees and \$0.00 in expenses. Set forth below is a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category:

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	0.50 hours	\$275.00	\$ 137.50
IFG	0.50 hours	\$300.00	\$ 150.00
IFG	5.90 hours	\$325.00	\$1,917.50
TOTAL	6.90 hours		\$2,205.00
		Expenses	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,205.00</b>

**Sale of Assets**

12. Counsel for the Trustee reviewed, revised and drafted multiple documents in connection with the non payment of loan payments. Counsel for the Trustee researched, reviewed and prepared pleadings first to sue the purchaser and then later for a Motion to Abandon; served all creditors on Motion; appeared at hearing on Motion to Abandon.

In connection with the above services, IFG Chtd. expended 15.40 hours, for which it seeks compensation in the amount of \$3,632.50 for fees and reimbursable expenses of \$114.70. Set forth below is a chart which summarizes the time expended by each professional in this category:

<u>Professional</u>	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
IFG	1.10 hours	\$275.00	\$ 302.50
IFG	10.30 hour	\$300.00	\$3,090.00
RE	4.00 hours	\$ 60.00	\$ 240.00
TOTAL	15.40 hours		<u>\$3,632.50</u>
		Expenses	\$114.70
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,747.20</b>

**CONCLUSION**

13. The rates charged by IFG Chtd. in this fee application are its usual and customary rates charged during the period covered by this application for work performed for other clients in both bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters.

14. IFG Chtd. has not entered into an agreement or understanding of any kind, expressed or implied, with any entity to share in its compensation received or to be received by IFG Chtd. for services rendered to the Trustee in this case.

15. IFG Chtd. has previously submitted a fee application in this case.

16. IFG Chtd. has provided the Trustee with a draft of this application and certifies that the Trustee has approved the application.

WHEREFORE, IFG Chtd. requests the entry of an order:

a. Allowing and directing payment to Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered final compensation in the amount of \$12,717.50 for the actual, necessary and valuable professional services rendered to the Trustee during the period from January 31, 2009 through May 1, 2012.

b. Allowing and directing final payment to Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered reimbursement for its actual and necessary expenses of \$218.13 incurred during the period of January 31, 2009 through May 1, 2012 in connection with such services;

c. Allowing the previously awarded first interim compensation request in the amount of \$6,127.50 and requested payment of \$109.40 for reimbursement of expenses incurred to the Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chtd. as final compensation for the actual, necessary and valuable professional services rendered to the Trustee during the period from January 12, 2006 to July 31, 2007. Allowing the previously awarded interim compensation requested as a second interim compensation for services rendered during the period of August 1, 2007 to January 29, 2009 in the amount of \$9,980.00 and requested payment of \$345.58 for reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with its legal services as final compensation for the actual, necessary and valuable professional services



d. For such other and further relief as this Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted by  
Law Offices of Ilene F. Goldstein, Chartered

By: /s/Ilene F. Goldstein  
One of Its Attorneys

Ilene F. Goldstein  
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**TIME SUMMARY BY INDIVIDUAL**

Professional	Hours	Rate	Total
IFG	4.50	\$275.00	\$1,237.50
IFG	21.00	\$300.00	\$6,300.00
IFG	15.20	\$325.00	\$4,940.00
RE	4.00	\$ 60.00	<u>\$ 240.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44.70</b>		<b>\$12,717.50</b>

**TIME SUMMARY BY CATEGORY**

	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Claims/Closing	\$ 4,522.50	\$ 70.00	\$4,592.50
Routine/Miscellaneous	\$ 2,357.50	\$ 33.43	\$2,390.93
Retention/Compensation	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 0.00	\$2,205.00
Sale of Assets	\$ 3,632.50	\$114.70	\$3,747.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$12,717.50</u></b>	<b><u>\$218.13</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,935.63</u></b>